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PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

[ISSUED FEBRUARY 25TH, 1870.]

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SESSION 1869-70.

*First Meeting, November 8th, 1869.*

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in  
the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Francis Barchard, Esq.; William Samuel Burton, Esq.; Samuel Woolcott Browne, Esq.; Dr. Cayley; Rev. Tupper Carey; Guillaume F. Costa, Esq.; Robert Campbell, Esq., J.P.; Dr. Hananel De Leon; John Harris, Esq.; James MacAlister Hall, Esq.; Robert Matthews Inman, Esq.; George L. Kemp, Esq.; Captain Thomas Lewin (Bengal Staff Corps); Francis K. Munton, Esq.; John Piggot, Esq., Jun.; Lieut.-Col. William Fitzwilliam Read; Thomas Randell, Esq.; Colonel T. R. Stewart (Bombay Army); B. Charles Stephenson, Esq.; Robert Salmond, Esq.; George N. Taylor, Esq.; Henry Yates Thompson, Esq.; Lieut.-Col. George Thompson, C.E.; Colonel H. J. Warre, C.B.; Samuel King Wilson, Esq.; Charles Warren, Esq.; Charles Henry Williams, Esq.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY BETWEEN JUNE 21ST AND NOVEMBER 8TH, 1869.—‘Die Balearen in Wort und Bild geschildert.’ Leipzig, 1869. Donor, Sir R. I. Murchison. ‘The Island of Hainan.’ By E. C. Taintor. Donor, the author. ‘Memoirs al Farabi.’ By M. Steinschneider. Donor, the author. ‘The Russo-Indian Question.’ By Capt. F. Trench. Donor, the author. ‘The New West.’ By C. L. Brace. ‘Our New West.’ By S. Bowles. ‘Our New Way Round the World.’ By Charles C. Coffin. By purchase. ‘New Tracks in North America.’ By Dr. W. A. Bell. Donor, the author. ‘The Mississippi Valley.’ By J. W. Foster. Purchased. ‘Palmæ Amazonicæ.’ By R. Spruce. Donor, the author. ‘Union Pacific

Railroad : ' reports, maps, and official documents (various). Donor, Cyril Graham, Esq. ' Trade Routes, Central Asia.' By T. Douglas Forsyth. Donor, the author. ' Travels in Central Africa.' By Mr. and Mrs. Petherick. Donors, the authors. ' Reisehandbuch für London,' etc. Von E. G. Ravenstein. Donor, the author. ' The Last of the Tasmanians.' By James Bonwick. Donor, the author. George Thompson's ' War in Paraguay, 1869.' Photographs of the Bhoze Ghauts. Presented by Colonel Yule.

PRINCIPAL ACCESSIONS TO THE MAP-ROOM SINCE LAST MEETING. Seven Photographs of Relief Models. By M. Bardin. Presented by Madame A. Bardin. Russian Map of the Province of Khokan, on 2 sheets. Presented by Lady Strangford. Atlas of Meteorological Maps of the South Atlantic Ocean, in 12 maps, with letter-press. Presented by the Meteorological Office, London. Part of the Revenue Survey of India; 29 sheets. Presented by the India Office, through Sir Bartle Frere. Several Maps and Plans of the United States. Presented by Mr. C. Graham. Two Sheets of the Topographical Map of Sweden. Presented by Major-Gen. Hazelius. Five Plans of the Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem, in case. Presented by the Ordnance Survey Office. Plans of the Suez Canal (4 in number). Presented by D. A. Lange, Esq. Five Maps. Presented by Dr. A. Petermann. Admiralty Charts (36 in number). Presented by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

The PRESIDENT opened the Session with the following address.

GENTLEMEN,—The two objects which most occupied our thoughts when the previous Session closed, and on which I dwelt in my last Anniversary Address, are now, I rejoice to say, in the way of being satisfactorily carried out. Our illustrious Associate Livingstone, whose life had been despaired of by the multitude, but of whose re-appearance among us, as you know, I never doubted, will, I trust, bring us ere long the first account of a region of Southern Africa never previously visited by a European; and thus, by actual observation, will have set at rest all theoretical speculations respecting the hydrography of that vast portion of Africa, lying to the north of those territories watered by the Zambesi which he had previously made his own.

I therefore joyfully hope that, at no very distant day we shall hear from his own lips the description of his travels during the three years which have elapsed since he entered South-Eastern Africa on his last expedition. In his expected communications we shall doubtless be enlightened not only respecting the true configuration of the great Lake Tanganyika, first visited by Burton

and Speke,\* but also as to the main watershed to the south of it which he has now traced.

The facts, as communicated in one of his last letters to Dr. Kirk, from Lake Bangweolo, dated July 8th, 1868, will be explained to you this evening, in anticipation of more detailed accounts which have been sent to the Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and India, but which by some accident have not yet been received. [Here the President explained that the letters announced by Dr. Kirk had only just been received, and although he (the President) had not perused any of them, the public Despatch would, by permission of the Earl of Clarendon, be presently read to the meeting.] We now know that he had discovered a chain of lakes connected by rivers far to the south; but whether these waters, after feeding or flanking the great Lake Tanganyika, really constitute the ultimate sources of the Nile, as Livingstone supposes, can only be a conjecture so long as no traveller has observed the connection between the northern end of Tanganyika and Lake Albert Nyanza of Baker, which is very far distant from the southern lakes of Livingstone. But I confidently hope that this point will be finally determined by Livingstone himself; as it appears from Dr. Kirk's information that he has touched at Ujiji, and must have there received the supplies, despatches, publications, and medicines which have so long been waiting for him.

Should these South African waters, now laid open by Livingstone, flow into the Albert Nyanza, the south-western extremities of which are as yet wholly unknown (though, we trust, to be soon defined by Baker), then, indeed, the great modern problem will have been solved, and we must go back to the old geography of Ptolemy, and acknowledge that he was right in placing the ultimate sources of the Nile very nearly in the same southern tract in which Livingstone has now found them. In this event it will also give me much pleasure, at our ensuing Anniversary, to assign to Dr. Beke, Mr. Arrowsmith, and Mr. Findlay, all the credit which is their due for their support, on theoretical grounds, of this great southerly extent of the Nile Basin.

In his wonderful labours Livingstone has not merely been the

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\* Those who wish to form a clear idea of the vast inland Lake Tanganyika (about 300 miles in length), should peruse Capt. Burton's masterly memoir in the Twenty-fourth volume of the 'Journal of the Royal Geographical Society,' entitled 'Lake Regions of Central Equatorial Africa.' In that memoir the reader will find a graphic and lively account of the tract around Ujiji, and of the manners and condition of the inhabitants. It was for the important discovery of the Lake Tanganyika, in which he was assisted by Capt. Speke, that Capt. Burton, as leader of the East African Expedition, received, at my hands, the Gold Medal of the Society in 1859.

Christian Missionary and geographical explorer. He was also accredited as her Majesty's Consul to all the native States in the interior.\* Such being the public mission with which the great traveller was entrusted, let us now confidently believe that Her Majesty's Government will authorize, on his return, the grant of a suitable pension to the man whose labours have shed so much renown on Britain, and that our gracious Sovereign, who has, I know, taken the deepest interest in his career, will reward him with some appropriate token of her good will.

Turning our eyes from the Africa of Livingstone, or South Africa properly so called, to Central or Equatorial Africa, in which lie those great water-basins which, thanks to the labours of Speke, Grant, and Baker, are known to feed the Nile, we have been rejoiced to learn, during our recess, that the last-named of these gallant explorers has been entrusted by the Viceroy of Egypt with a mission which, whether we view it as the first step in bringing a vast disorderly region of warring and barbarous tribes under the regular government of that potentate, or as defining the boundaries of those vast internal waters, does the highest credit to our associate who planned it, and to the powerful ruler who has so munificently engaged to defray the expenses of so costly an expedition.

By the employment of steam launches (prepared in this country by Mr. Samuda), and supported as he is by all the power of Egypt, we have every reason to hope that Sir Samuel Baker will succeed in realizing his grand conception, and that, encouraged once more by that heroic wife who has been his companion in all his African researches, we may confidently anticipate that this noble effort will be crowned with deserved success.

Besides the results of these two great expeditions, we expect to receive during the Session an account of another African Exploration, undertaken by Mr. Winwood Reade, under our auspices, and at the cost of a munificent patron of scientific enterprise, our associate Mr. Andrew Swanzy. Foiled in his first attempt to penetrate the interior of Western Africa by the Assinie River, Mr. Reade shifted his base of operations to Sierra Leone, and there, supported by the Governor and the principal merchants, has advanced through the territory of the coast tribes towards the Sources of the Niger. By letters recently received, dated the 1st August last, we learn that this adventurous traveller had reached Farabana, a town of 10,000 inhabitants unknown to

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\* See the 'Gazette' of March 24th, 1865, p. 1676.

geographers, on the upper waters of the Niger, beyond the point reached by Caillié and other European travellers.

Among the communications which will be brought before the Society, my associates will hear with pleasure that so much new and interesting matter will be made known respecting Central Asia, and particularly in regard to the countries immediately beyond the north-western boundaries of our Indian Empire. This engrossing subject will necessarily give rise to much discussion during the ensuing year. Thus, although our Envoy, Mr. Hayward, who went out specially charged by the Council, to examine, if possible, the vast and wild territory of the Pamir Steppe, in which the rivers Oxus and Jaxartes have their rise, had his advance in that direction stopped by the recent civil war beyond our frontier, we now know that, taking up the route *viâ* Ladakh, he penetrated to Yarkand and Kashgar, the chief towns of Eastern Turkestan. He has, indeed, prepared maps which, defining the practicable passes through those lofty mountains, throw a new light on the courses of the rivers and the configuration of the dividing ranges.

Being satisfied with the work he had already accomplished, we are glad to learn that, nothing disheartened, Mr. Hayward has resolved to try once more to enter into and examine the great Pamir Steppe, called by the natives the "Backbone of the World," and into which no Russian nor British geographer has ever penetrated. Our Council has thus accordingly supplied him with the pecuniary means to work out this important geographical problem. In doing this, I cannot too carefully impress upon the public that Mr. Hayward is solely our agent for purposes of pure geography.

Though placed in surveillance whilst in Eastern Turkestan, now governed by Yakooob Kooshbegie, Mr. Hayward was always kindly and hospitably treated by that great Mussulman Chief. When we employed him on this mission, we had no accurate knowledge of the efforts which were about to be made to send a caravan of tea from the plantations on the south side of the Himalayan regions, to sell the same to the inhabitants of a vast region formerly a part of China, and now deprived of the supply of a beverage to which for ages they had been accustomed. Encouraged by our accomplished associate Mr. R. Douglas Forsyth, who had been for some time the British Commissioner on the frontiers of Cashmir, and had seized every opportunity of promoting a friendly intercourse with Eastern Turkestan, you now know that Mr. Shaw, an English tea-planter of Kangra, had threaded the lofty mountain passes and had reached Yarkand at the same time as Mr. Hayward.

This simultaneous arrival of two Englishmen, though quite accidental—the one as a merchant, the other as a scientific explorer, a character wholly unintelligible to them—very naturally alarmed the native Yarkandis, who had never seen an Englishman.\* But the good conduct of our two countrymen, whether at Yarkand or at Kashgar, ultimately led to the persuasion that both were simply making inquiries as to the best practicable routes for trade between India and Turkestan; and it is much to the credit of the Mahomedan ruler that he treated both the travellers with kindness, and expressing a strong desire to trade with us, allowed them to return together to British India. This powerful and despotic ruler of Eastern Turkestan has taken the title of Ataligh Ghazee, or Leader of the Faithful, by which he is always called. His rule is popular, and his subjects prosperous, and he expressed to Mr. Shaw his great desire to be on friendly terms with England. Let us therefore hope that an intercourse, like that which has long been carried on with them by the Russians, may also thrive for the benefit of our country.

Of the people of Eastern Turkestan, Dr. Cayley (the political agent in Ladakh), thus writes:—"The English travellers were greatly surprised at the civilization, wealth, and prosperity, of the people of Yarkand, who seem far in advance of most Asiatics. The polite, well-bred, and at the same time independent manners, even of the common people, is very striking. There is no religious intolerance towards foreigners, and the people will sit down and eat and drink with any one. They are essentially mercantile, and speak eagerly of trading with India."

It is also satisfactory to learn, that the Earl of Mayo, the Governor-General of India, takes the most lively interest in the full development of the geographical features of this vast region, and also of the condition and wants of the natives, whilst he entirely approves of all the important preliminary steps which have been taken to bring about a good understanding and useful trade between these hitherto unexplored countries and British India.

Whilst on this topic I cannot but advert to the praiseworthy conduct of Dr. Leitner, a learned philologist, who, having been employed by the Government in the countries bordering upon the British territory, has recently, while on leave, brought to England

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\* When it is said that no Englishman ever visited this region, we must not forget that the unfortunate and accomplished Adolf Schlagintweit, a Prussian subject, but acting at the cost of the Indian Government, did reach Kashgar, and there met with his death. Here it is right to state that the present ruler expressed to Mr. Shaw his sorrow for the murder of Schlagintweit by the robber Walee Khan, who was executed two years ago by order of the Ataligh Ghazee.

a native of Yarkand, the first of his nation who has ever been in Europe, and who is present on this occasion. As this intelligent young man speaks several languages, including Chinese, and understands Hindustanee, we may, judging from him, form a fair idea of how intelligent a people there exists beyond the north-west frontier of British India, and that as this country affords various products of fine wool, silks, and fruits of many sorts, besides numerous minerals of value, we may in the end largely benefit by sending in exchange for them our tea from Hindostan, and manufactured goods from Britain.

Various other topics will come before us during the Session, the interest of which I will not forestall by entering into details respecting them. Such, for example, is the exploration of the new course which the Yellow River of China has taken since the year 1851, by our enterprising associate Mr. Elias, an account of which will be read to you this evening. Another paper of high interest is one on the Physical Geography and Ethnology of the Runn of Cutch and neighbouring regions, by Sir Bartle Frere, an outline of which was given at the last meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. A third memoir, which will be found attractive, is by Captain Mayne, R.N., on his recent Survey of the Straits of Magellan.

We hope also to see again before us Dr. Bell, who gave last Session an interesting account of his journey through the little-known region of Arizona and neighbouring territories in North America, and who has since published his 'New Tracks in North America,' a book now attracting deservedly much notice. We are informed by him that during a recent visit to North America he met Major Powell, of the United States' Army, who had just accomplished an exploration of that wonderful chasm, or cañon, through which the great river Colorado flows for several hundred miles; and he has promised to lay before us the results of this remarkable journey as soon as he receives the Major's reports. We may expect, also, an account of another of Mr. Chandless' remarkable river-explorations in South America, the last letter from that able and courageous traveller informing us that he was on his way up the River Madeira to explore the Beni to its sources in the Andes.

Many other papers will, I doubt not, flow in; and already I anticipate as full and active a Session as any of those which have sustained the reputation of the Royal Geographical Society.

The following letters were then read:—